

## **ARENA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, April 19, 2007**

**5:30 PM Everett Arena**

Present: Chairman Nick Walner (NW), Mike Groferor (MG), Tom Ackerson (TA), Bob LaChapelle (BL), Michelle Mullen (MM), Councilor Jim Rowe (JR), Gerry Blanchette (GB), Arena & Properties Manager Jeff Bardwell (JB), Public Properties Superintendent Jeff Hoadley (JH), Excused, Gary Young (GY), Councilor Bill Stetson (BS) Absent Dave Palisi (DP)

Meeting called to order 5:30 PM

### **Bleachers**

JB briefed the advisory committee on the status of the bleachers and that there have been two incidents in two years of children falling through openings in the main bleachers to the floor below. Fortunately, neither child was seriously injured. The City of Concord's insurance provider, Primex, has indicated that the bleachers must either be enclosed or replaced.

In working with Primex, staff has come up with three solutions to the bleacher issue. Option 1 is to replace the bleachers with new; projected cost for this option would be over \$100,000 dollars. Option 2 is to enclose the existing bleachers; estimated cost for this option is \$35,000. Option 3 is to accept a set of Hussey Bleachers that would be donated from an arena in Taunton, MA, cost for this option is \$27,000.

Of the three options staff recommends option 3 because it is the most economical, will resolve the issue of anyone falling through the bleachers, provides the arena with bleachers that are retractable and would create more aisle space between the first row and rink dasher boards. Current aisle width is 40"; option 3 would create close to 8 feet of aisle between the first seat and back of the rink dasher boards. The larger aisle space would be much more customer friendly than the current space.

Discussion took place of either enclosing the existing or replacing with the donated bleachers. A question was asked of the amount of seating with option 2 or option 3. JB explained that regardless of which option we chose we would lose some seating because the existing bleachers would have to brought up to today's standard, i.e. adding more stairways, etc. It is estimated that there would be 220 seats less by going with option 3 than option 2 resulting in a total capacity of just over 1,300. BL asked what standards are used and how often are they updated. JB explained that the code used is the NFPA 102 regarding grandstands and bleachers that was established back in the mid 1940's and has been updated every five to ten years. MM asked if there was a height difference in the bleachers. JB explained the top row of the current bleachers is 8 feet and the top row of the bleachers from Taunton is 7 feet.

JB explained the timeline for moving ahead and that this had to go back to council. Councilor JR explained he believed that council had already approved moving ahead pending the arena advisory committee's recommendation.

MG made a motion to move ahead with the plan to accept the bleachers from the Taunton, MA rink to replace the main bleachers and enclose the upper bleachers. BL 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, there was no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey R. Bardwell  
Arena & Properties Manager